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(54) DISPENSER FOR PAPER ROLLS

(71) We, FISKEBY AKTIEBOLAG, a Company organized under the Laws of Sweden, of Katrinefors Bruk, 542 01 Mariestad, Sweden, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to a dispenser for a paper roll.

A dispenser which comprises a base for carrying the paper roll in an upright position, the base having a central opening permitting paper to be pulled out, and a tear-off member provided underneath the base and having a tear-off edge extending about the central opening at some distance from the base is known from Swedish Patent Specification No. 304,363. The dispenser is provided with a conical tear-off member formed as a downwardly tapering flange at the lower opening of which tear-off teeth are provided. The main disadvantage of this known dispenser is that it is necessary to put one's hand into the conical tear-off member past the sharp tear-off teeth to seize the free end of the paper strip and to pull out a length of the strip, and in doing so one's hand may be hurt by the tear-off teeth. Also, since the free end of the paper strip is within the conical tear-off member it is not possible to see from a distance if the paper strip has been consumed or not. At its top, the known dispenser is provided with a removable cover which makes it difficult to place a new paper roll in the dispenser and simultaneously to prevent the free end of the strip from being stuck under the paper roll, especially as the free end of the strip is accessible only from below inside the tear-off teeth of the flange.

The last-mentioned disadvantage can be eliminated by making the dispenser with a base portion including the tear-off member and a cylindrical wall portion which is sufficiently high to permit supporting means for the dispenser to be attached thereto, and a top portion in the form of a downwardly open removable housing. For reasons of strength, however, the base portion of the dispenser must be made very stable, and therefore the base portion requires much material. Due to the tear-off member, the base portion is also very bulky and requires much space in transport and storage. The tear-off member may be made removable but this, however, makes the dispenser unnecessarily complicated and requires an increase in the strength of the cylindrical wall portion.

According to the present invention there is provided a dispenser for a paper roll, which dispenser comprises (i) a base for supporting the paper roll in an upright position; and (ii) a housing removably mounted on the base and having an open end whereby it may be fitted over a paper roll supported on the base, wherein the base is provided with a central opening which permits paper to be pulled out of the dispenser from a paper roll in the housing and with a flange extending normally from the base on that side of the base which is remote from the housing, the flange extending around at least the greater part of the base and terminating in an edge against which paper pulled out of the dispenser through the opening can be torn off.

Preferably, the dispenser includes supporting means fastened to or formed integrally with the flange.

The flange may be in the form of a cylinder having a radius which is substantially greater than the axial length thereof.

Thus the free end of the paper strip will hang down below the tear-off edge whereby the free end of the paper strip can be easily seized by the hand without any risk of the hand being hurt by the tear-off edge. Since the pendant free end of the paper strip is visible, it is also easy to see when a paper roll has been wholly consumed. Since the flange, which may have a serrated edge, constitutes a tear-off member as well as a holder for the supporting means of the container, only the flange which has a relatively small axial length has to be given a comparatively high mechanical stability which means that only a small amount of material is used. The base may be made of sheet metal or a plastics material and the housing may be made of a plastics material. The housing

must be made correspondingly higher which, however, is of minor importance as regards space requirements in transport and storage, since the housing can easily be made slightly conical so that several housings can be stacked inserted into each other.

For a better understanding of the present invention and to show more clearly how the same may be carried into effect, reference will now be made, by way of example, to the accompanying drawing which shows a perspective view of one embodiment of a dispenser for paper rolls according to the present invention.

The dispenser shown in the drawing consists of two parts, namely a base part consisting of a plane base 1 with a central opening 2 and a cylindrical, downwardly-directed flange 3, and an upper part in the form of a downwardly open housing 4. At its top, the base part has a peripheral recess 5 which forms a seat for the lower edge of the housing 4. In the drawing, the housing 4 is shown raised above the base part, but in use it rests on the seat.

In the illustrated embodiment, the base part is made in a single piece of heavy sheet metal and is provided on the outside with a support 6 which is welded to the flange 3 for supporting the dispenser in any suitable manner, for instance on a column 7. Alternatively, the base 1 can be loosely placed in the flange 3 on brackets (not shown) or like supports or be attached in any suitable manner to the inside of the flange. It may for instance be welded to the flange below the recessed portion 5. The housing 4 can be made of a thin material, e.g. a plastics material, and the base part 1 and the flange 3 may also be made of a moulded plastics material.

The paper roll which is shown by dash-dot lines in the drawing is placed on the base 1, and the paper strip is unwound from the centre of the roll. The free end 9 of the roll extends through the opening 2 and hangs down below the lower edge of the flange 3 which is provided with tear-off teeth 8. After a desired length of the strip has been pulled out it is moved sideways and torn off against the teeth 8. The free end of the remaining strip then swings back towards the centre of the flange and hangs in such a way that it is easily accessible with a portion of the strip being situated below the level of the teeth 8, the length of the portion being dependent on the ratio of the radius of the flange to its height. This ratio should preferably be relatively large.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A dispenser for a paper roll, which dispenser comprises (i) a base for supporting the paper roll in an upright position; and (ii) a housing removably mounted on the base and having an open end whereby it may be fitted over a paper roll supported on the base, wherein the base is provided with a central opening which permits paper to be pulled out of the dispenser from a paper roll in the housing and with a flange extending normally from the base on that side of the base which is remote from the housing, the flange extending around at least the greater part of the base and terminating in an edge against which paper pulled out of the dispenser through the opening can be torn off.

2. A dispenser as claimed in claim 1 and including supporting means fastened to or formed integrally with the flange.

3. A dispenser as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the flange is in the form of a cylinder having a radius which is substantially greater than the axial length thereof.

4. A dispenser as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the housing is conical.

5. A dispenser as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the base is made of sheet metal.

6. A dispenser as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the base is made of a plastics material.

7. A dispenser as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the housing is made of a plastics material.

8. A dispenser as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the said edge of the flange is serrated.

9. A dispenser for a paper roll substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawing.

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1455216 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
1 SHEET *This drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale*